



# Branching Out

November 6, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

## **TREE meetings:**

Tuesday, January 12, at Friends of the Rappahannock in Fredericksburg.

We will be nominating new officers. Please send nominations to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov)

President: Preside at meetings, develop agenda, and represent organization at Virginia Environmental Education conference and other events.

Vice-President: Presides at meetings in president's absence, helps develop programs for meetings.

Secretary: Take notes at meetings, compile minutes, and forward e-mail announcements to members

Publicity chair: New office. Will publicize meetings and organization to media and potential members.

I will stay on as newsletter editor.

## **Local Events:**

Send your events to [charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov)

### **DCR offers Phragmites control workshops for Northern Neck landowners Oct. 28 and Nov. 10**

(KILMARNOCK, Va.) – Workshops about controlling a highly invasive plant, *Phragmites australis*, will soon be held for residents in the Northern Neck. The first workshop will be held on Oct. 28, 2009, at the Lancaster Community Library in Kilmarnock; the second will be held Nov. 10, 2009, at the Belle Isle State Park Environmental Education Center. These free workshops are hosted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Phragmites is a tall, aggressive, non-native plant that is rapidly replacing native marsh and forest communities. It now covers more than 1,700 acres of habitat in the Northern Neck. As Phragmites spreads, it destroys high-quality wildlife habitat, impedes water flow in drainage ditches, and poses a fire hazard.

The workshops are supported through a grant from the Mid-Atlantic Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species.

The Lancaster Community Library is at 235 School St., Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Belle Isle State Park is at 1632 Belle Isle Rd., Lancaster, VA 22503. For more information, call DCR Eastern District Manager Paul Clarke at (804) 225-2820, or Stewardship Biologist Kevin Heffernan at (804) 786-9112.

## **Other Events:**

### **The Governor's Conference for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education**

***November 15th and 16th***

Join the forum that will highlight successful efforts across all sectors; showcase the range of opportunities currently available in STEM; and extract the principles, policies, and practices that have yielded evidence-based success in enhancing STEM education in Virginia.

More information on the conference and registration can be found at <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/stem>.

### **Teacher at Sea Program**

NOAA is accepting applications from K-12 teachers for the 2010 Teacher at Sea field season. The program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending teachers to sea aboard research and survey ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew. Then, armed with new understanding and experience, teachers bring this knowledge back to their classrooms. Cruises take place throughout most of the year on a space-available basis. The deadline for application is December 31, 2009.

<http://teacheratsea.noaa.gov/apply/index.html>

## **Free Tools and other Cool Stuff**

### **National Climate Seminar - Phone-In**

The National Climate Seminar is a bi-monthly, national phone conversation featuring climate scientists, political leaders, and policy analysts. This seminar is hosted by the Bard Center for Environmental Policy and will run through December 30, 2009. Participants can submit questions and comments. Note that the call-in number may not be free of charge.

<http://www.bard.edu/cep/ncs/>

### **Environmental Posters**

The Loxahatchee River District offers a series of environmental poster series, Seagrasses, Eastern Oyster, Bonefish, Tarpon, and Land Crab. The posters focus on the importance of habitat preservation and fisheries management. The posters can be downloaded from the website.

<http://www.loxahatcheeriver.org/resources.php>

### **EPA Data Finder**

EPA recently launched DataFinder, a single place to find EPA's data sources so people can better access and understand environmental information. Visit the site, suggest new content, and comment on its functionality. EPA also will use Data Finder to discover raw data that can be accessed via Data.gov, a federal site that helps people find, download, and use datasets that are generated and held by the federal government. <http://www.epa.gov/datafinder>

### **Growing Up WILD**

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills. The activity guide, Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children is written especially for early childhood educators of children ages 3-7. Guides are distributed to participants at professional development workshops, offered by Project WILD state coordinators. Workshops are free or have a minimal workshop fee. As an example, the website offers the downloadable activity, Fishing Fun! <http://www.projectwild.org/GrowingUpWILD.htm>  
Interested in a workshop? Call Charlene (a facilitator for the program) at 804-462-0162.

### **Living in the Weather**

NOAA's Ocean Service Education website offers new Living in the Weather resources for teachers. These materials explain how meteorologists observe and predict the weather. To understand weather and climate, one needs to understand the atmospheric and oceanic conditions and the interrelatedness of weather and climate. The resources will help teacher engage their students in the exploration and prediction of atmospheric conditions responsible for weather patterns and climatic conditions, and investigate how extreme weather impacts people and the environment.

[http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/living\\_weather/](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/pd/living_weather/)

### **Love Your Stream Poster**

The new "Love Your Stream" poster field-guide to clean water practices is appropriate for students in grades K-5. The full color poster comes with a black and white reduced size coloring poster and a clean water practices checklist kids can take home to teach their parents and friends. Some of the clean water practices illustrated include: picking up after your pets; using soaker hoses; setting up a rain barrel; making a worm bin and compost fence; and more.

<http://www.goodnaturepublishing.com>

### **National Water Management Center**

The National Resources Conservation Service offers the National Water Management Center website to provide leadership, assistance, information, and technology on water-related issues for natural resources conservation. Learn about water resource planning, watershed assessments, water policy implementations, and more. <http://wmc.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/>

### **Neighborhood Explorers**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers an online video game aimed to encourage kids to go outside and learn about the environment. Designed for children ages 8-11, the website is geared to reach those children not currently participating in outdoor programs and activities. Read about it on the Let's Go Outside website.

<http://www.fws.gov/letsgooutside/>

### **PhotoZone**

The National Wildlife Federation offers Ranger Rick's PhotoZone to help young photographers learn to take and share photos of wildlife and wild places. There are photo tips, tricks, contests, and more. <http://www.nwf.org/kidzone/kzPage.cfm?siteId=3&departmentId=80>

### **Ten Top Tips for Teaching with New Media**

Eductopia offers Ten Top Tips for Teaching with New Media. It offers succinct and practical advice, covering everything from iChat and Twitter to lesser-known tools like VoiceThread and Wordle. The downloadable document is available for free. <http://www.edutopia.org/ten-top-tips>

### **Tools with a Cost:**

#### **Grant Writing: Getting Started**

If you are new to grant writing this 90-minute session will help you identify the information you need to collect and the files you need to establish to begin developing compelling grant proposals. Cynthia M. Adams has been teaching grant writing workshops for over 20 years, and will answer all of your questions about how to get started. This workshop is full of "how to's" and examples for beginning grant writers. Ms. Adams uses the GrantStation website as her training tool so you will also get an inside look at GrantStation and the numerous resources offered. The webinar will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2009 and is for Beginning participants. Visit the link listed above to register. **The webinar is led by Cynthia M. Adams, CEO of GrantStation, and scheduled to begin at 2 PM EDT. The registration fee for webinars is \$89 per person.**

### **Seminars on Science - Online**

Registration is open for the upcoming academic year of Seminars on Science from the American Museum of Natural History. Courses are six weeks long and are co-taught by an experienced classroom teacher and a research scientist. Upcoming courses include The Ocean System, Water: Environmental Science, and more. The deadline for registration for fall session 2 closes October 5, 2009; spring session 1 registration deadline is January 11, 2010.

<http://www.amnh.org/learn/>

### **Earn a Master of Environmental Management at Duke University from your Desktop**

Create an environmental vision for tomorrow at the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke, while maintaining a commitment to your employer and family! The Duke Environmental Leadership Program offers an innovative, two-year Master of Environmental Management degree for environmental professionals. The DEL-MEM is an online and on-campus program providing a perspective of interdisciplinary and global themes, strategic approaches to environmental management, and effective leadership and communication skills. Information Sessions available now at Duke or via virtual sessions. [Check the schedule >>](#)

<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/del/del-mem/>

## **Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:**

### **Tracks to Success**

#### *[Notes from a Federal Reviewer](#)*

This four-part series, written by the reviewer of numerous government grant applications, provides a first hand account of the federal review process. It provides insight into how a Request for Application (RFA), or a Request for Proposal (RFP) is developed, and chronicles the journey a submission makes once it reaches the funding agency. The series also describes factors that can summarily disqualify an application and others that can make it memorable. Click on the link provided above to read Part Three: "Evaluation."

## **Jobs**

### **Education Specialist**

Description: Prince William Soil & Water Conservation District seeks individual to develop/present conservation education programs to youth, organize events, write articles/press releases/grant proposals. Requires knowledge of instructional processes, curriculum, Virginia SOLs, strong computer/verbal/written communication skills. Degree in educ/agriculture/natural resources or equivalent experience req. FT \$30K. (703) 594-3621 or [katenorris@pwsacd.org](mailto:katenorris@pwsacd.org). Open until 11/20 or until filled.

### **Onboard Educator - Around the Americas**

Description: Pacific Science Center is searching for an adventurous, creative, and talented educator to work on board a 64' sailboat to communicate ocean and climate science to diverse audiences in international ports of call. The educator will join the Around the Americas expedition in South America so fluent Spanish conversational skills are required.

The Around the Americas (ATA) expedition is a collaborative project involving Pacific Science Center and a Newport, Rhode Island-based environmental non-profit organization, Sailors for the Sea. The overall goal of ATA is to engage and educate the public about ocean health and marine conservation using the voyage of sailing vessel "Ocean Watch" as it circumnavigates North and South America to catalyze world attention. The expedition departed Seattle on May 31, 2009 and will visit 30 ports in 11 countries over the course of 13 months. "Ocean Watch" has successfully sailed around Alaska, through the Northwest Passage, and is currently heading south along the East coast of the United States.

The Shipboard Educator will join a crew of four professional sailors in mid-December in South America. Also on board to conduct research will be ocean and atmospheric scientists. In each port, the public will meet the crew to learn about life at sea and current research by exploring interactive displays and touring the vessel.

For a full job description visit: [www.pacsci.org/jobs/](http://www.pacsci.org/jobs/)

For more information regarding the Around the Americas project visit:  
<http://www.aroundtheamericas.org/>

**Job Type:** Full Time temporary

**Salary Detail:** \$1280/biweekly

**Deadline:** 11-15-2009

**Organization:** [Pacific Science Center](#)

**Location:** South America

**Contact Person:** Renee Gervais

**E-Mail:** [jobs@pacsci.org](mailto:jobs@pacsci.org)

**Mailing Address:** 200 2nd Ave North

Seattle, WA 98109

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to [charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov)

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact [faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net](mailto:faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net)